

NOTES ON SOME MOSQUITO LARVAE FROM NORTH WALES

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The material which forms the subject of this paper was obtained during the course of some investigations on the breeding-habits of the North Wales Culicidae, the results of which were published in these ANNALS (Rees Wright, 1923).

I. AN UNDESCRIBED LARVAL INSTAR OF *Theobaldia (Culicella) morsitans* (Theobald). (Fig. 1.)

So far as the writer is aware, the first instar larva of this species has not been described.

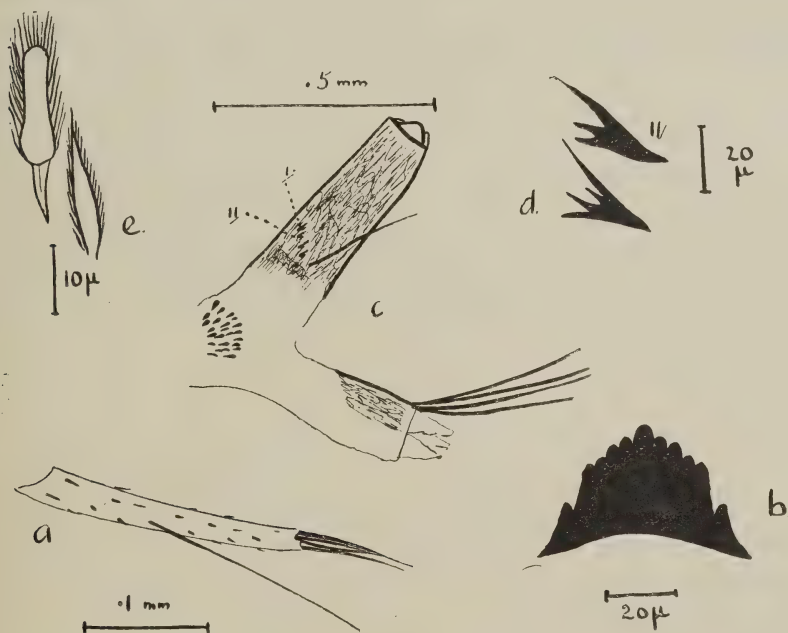


FIG. 1. *Theobaldia morsitans*; 1st Larval Instar. a—Antenna; b—Mental plate; c—Siphon and Anal segment; d—Pecten teeth; e—Comb-scales.

W.R.W.
1924

Head about as broad as long, all hairs simple, with an egg-breaking tooth on the dorsal surface. *Antenna* (fig. 1, *a*) shorter than the head, basal tuft a single hair. *Mental plate* (*b*) triangular, with a large median tooth and four smaller teeth on either side, the outermost slightly separated from the rest. No *anal fin*, four long and stout hairs arise from posterior margin of saddle (*c*). Comb-scales (*e*) few, of two kinds similar to those of the adult. *Pecten* oblique, of four teeth in which the main denticle is decidedly larger than the rest, which are not, however, reduced to small projections on it (*d*). *Tufted hair* single. *Siphonal index* about 3.

Glan-rhyd Reservoir, Pentir, near Carnarvon. 21.9.1922.

II. DIFFERENTIATION OF LARVAL INSTAR OF *Aedes* (*Ochlerotatus*) *detritus* (Haliday).

Lang (1920) gives a key to the instar of this species; he notes that the characters are not diagnostic 'but should be applied with the reservation that in any one specimen any character may vary beyond the prescribed limits.' The writer obtained some larval pelts of this species which could not belong to the fourth instar, as there were no pupae in the tank in which this species was being bred, but which possessed most of the characters given by Lang for that instar. The writer later obtained the two last larval pelts of a single individual. Table I gives a comparison between the characters found and those given by Lang; Table II gives the extreme range of variation observed in a number of larvae examined. It will be noticed that the characters for the third instar 'overlap' those of the fourth.

TABLE I.

	Lang (1920)		W.R.W.	
	III	IV	III	IV
Inner post-antennal hair	1	2	2	4
Middle post-antennal hair	1	...	2	2
Outer post-antennal hair	3-4	4+	6	10
Pecten teeth	10-14	18-30	18	23
Tufted hair of Siphon	2-3	4-9	7	10

TABLE II.

	Instar	
	III	IV
Inner post-antennal hair	1-2	1-3
Middle post-antennal hair	2-5	2
Outer post-antennal hair	2-6	2
Pecten teeth At least	18	...
Tufted hair of siphon	6-7	6-10

REFERENCES

- LANG, W. D. (1920). 'A Handbook of British Mosquitoes.' British Museum (Natural History). London.
- WRIGHT, W. R. (1923). A Preliminary Account of the Results of Surveys for Breeding-Places of Mosquitoes in North Wales. *Ann. Trop. Med. & Parasit.*, Vol. XVII, pp. 539-547.